

DESTINATION PLYMOUTH

History

Everyone educated in the United States knows at least a little of the story of Plymouth -- about how the Pilgrims, fleeing religious persecution, left Europe on the Mayflower and landed at Plymouth Rock in December 1620. Many also know that the Pilgrims endured disease and privation, and that just 53 people from the original group of 102 celebrated what we now call "the first Thanksgiving" in 1621 with Squanto, a Pawtuxet Indian associated with the Wampanoag people, and his cohorts.

What you won't know until you visit is how small everything was. The Mayflower (a reproduction) seems perilously tiny, and when you contemplate how dangerous life was at the time, it's hard not to marvel at the settlers' accomplishments. One of their descendants' accomplishments is this: Plymouth is in many ways a model destination, where the 17th century coexists with the 21st, and most historic attractions are both educational and fun. Visitors jam the downtown area and waterfront in the summer, but the year-round population of 60,000 is large enough that Plymouth feels more like the working community it is than a touristy day-trip destination. It's a manageable 1-day excursion from Normandy Farms, particularly enjoyable if you're traveling with children.

Plymouth Visitor Information Center:

Your visit should begin at the Waterfront Visitor Information Center (tel. 508.747.7525), open seasonally at 130 Water St., across from the Town Pier. The Center is full of brochures, maps and helpful attendants who will assist you in planning your day. **There are public restrooms at the Visitor Center.**

Transportation Options:

- America's Hometown Shuttle 508.746.0378; www.p-b.com/ahs.html covers a loop throughout the town from late June through Labor Day weekend, daily from 10am to 5pm (for a fee) and includes a narrated tour and unlimited reboarding. Inquire at the Visitor Center to purchase tickets, or for the schedule and route which includes Plimoth Plantation. Note: This service was put on hold in March 2020 until further notice due to Covid.

Getting Around by Foot:

The downtown attractions are easily accessible on foot. A shallow hill slopes from the center of town to the waterfront. For those folks who enjoy walking, follow the footsteps of history and trace the past in Plymouth as you enjoy a leisurely stroll along the **Pilgrim Path** (free maps can be picked up the Visitor's Center, located at 130 Water Street in Plymouth). Plimoth Plantation is a few miles off the path, so if you decide to visit that destination, you would probably opt to drive.

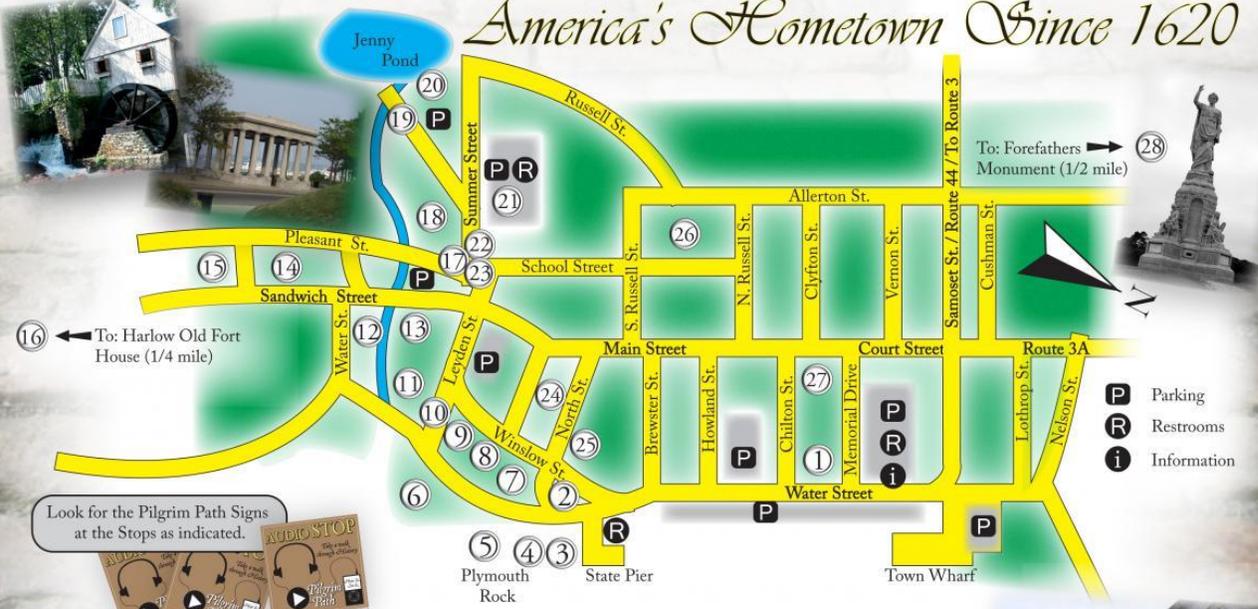
Starting at the Visitor Center, wander up and down the tiny side streets depicted on the map. You will find homes and museums that celebrate Plymouth's rich historic past from the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, as well as charming lanes, abundant gardens, and delightful neighborhoods. If time permits, take in the sites around Town Square and those a little north on Court Street and the waterfront.

Before you wind up your tour, you may want to go aboard the Mayflower II, anchored near Plymouth Rock where your journey through Plymouth's past began. Take your time and enjoy the unique flavor of Plymouth on this walking tour of America's Hometown.

While following the Pilgrim Path Walking Tour you will see signs (like the one shown on the bottom left corner of following map) at each historic location. The signs will be numbered with the corresponding audio clip. **DO YOU HAVE A SMART PHONE?** If so click the QR Code on the Pilgrim Path Tour signs with your phone scanner and go right to the Pilgrim Path website. Hear all about the Pilgrim Path on your phone. The clips have extended information not found on the printed map. Get ready to be surprised at the exciting details about Plymouth, the Pilgrims and the Native Americans that you might have never heard before!

DISCOVER PLYMOUTH

America's Hometown Since 1620



Look for the Pilgrim Path Signs at the Stops as indicated.

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Hedge House | 8. Massasoit Statue | 15. Town Training Green | 22. Town Square |
| 2. Pilgrim Mother Statue | 9. UAINE Plaque | 16. Harlow Old Fort House | 23. King Phillips War Plaque |
| 3. Mayflower II | 10. Site of Original Settlement | 17. 1749 Court Street | 24. Spooner House |
| 4. Plimoth Plantation | 11. Immigrant Monument | 18. Richard Sparrow House | 25. Mayflower Society |
| 5. Plymouth Rock | 12. Town Brook | 19. Jenny Grist Mill | 26. 1820 Courthouse |
| 6. Governor William Bradford | 13. Pilgrim Maiden Statue | 20. Namasket Trail | 27. Pilgrim Hall |
| 7. Coles Hill | 14. Howland House | 21. Burial Hill | 28. Forefathers Monument |



Follow the numbers consecutively as you wonder Historic Plymouth Center.

Shops and restaurants are all along the Pilgrim Path, so stop and rest at various points and enjoy all that Plymouth has to offer.

Stops along the Pilgrim Path:

Hedge House Stop # 1

Grand Federal-era mansion built and lived in by Plymouth merchants and ship owners; now operated by the Plymouth Antiquarian Society.

[http://www.pilgrimpathtours.com/yahoo_site_admin/assets/audio/Pilgrim_Path_2 - Pilgrim Mother.129115433.mp3](http://www.pilgrimpathtours.com/yahoo_site_admin/assets/audio/Pilgrim_Path_2_-_Pilgrim_Mother.129115433.mp3)

Pilgrim Mother Statue Stop #2
Given by the Daughters of the American Revolution, sculpted by Paul O. Jennewein, and designed by McKim Mead and White for the 1921 Tercentenary celebration.

[http://www.pilgrimpathtours.com/yahoo_site_admin/assets/audio/Pilgrim_Path_3 - Mayflower II.129120352.mp3](http://www.pilgrimpathtours.com/yahoo_site_admin/assets/audio/Pilgrim_Path_3_-_Mayflower_II.129120352.mp3)

Mayflower II Stop #3 **(Public Restrooms are available at this stop)**

Full scale replica of the Pilgrim Ship, built in England and sailed to Plymouth in 1957.

Plimoth Plantation Stop #4

Plimoth Plantation is a private non-profit living history museum. Founded in 1947, the museum features the 1627 Pilgrim Village, Hobbamock's Wampanoag Homesite, as well as other exhibits and attractions.

The Famous Plymouth Rock Stop #5

Famous as the legendary landing place of the Pilgrims, the Rock was moved several times and cracked before returning to its original location.

Governor William Bradford Statue Stop #6

The statue of Plymouth's famous second Governor was sculpted by Cyrus Dallin for the 1921 Pilgrim Tercentenary. This smaller than life sized statue was cast and installed in 1971.

Coles Hill Stop #7

Legend has it that the Pilgrims who died in the first winter were secretly buried here and their graves planted over to conceal the number of dead from the native People.

Massasoit Statue Stop #8

A heroic statue of the Wampanoag Sachem and friend of the Pilgrims, sculpted by Cyrus Dallin and installed during the 1921 Pilgrim Tercentenary.

UAINE Plaque Stop #9

The United American Indians of New England Plaque also known as the National Day of Mourning Plaque.

[http://www.pilgrimpathtours.com/yahoo_site_admin/assets/audio/Pilgrim_Path_10 Leyden St.129121742.mp3](http://www.pilgrimpathtours.com/yahoo_site_admin/assets/audio/Pilgrim_Path_10_Leyden_St.129121742.mp3)

Site of Original Settlement, Leyden Street Stop #10

[http://www.pilgrimpathtours.com/yahoo_site_admin/assets/audio/Pilgrim_Path_Stop_11 Immigrant Monument.12983402.mp3](http://www.pilgrimpathtours.com/yahoo_site_admin/assets/audio/Pilgrim_Path_Stop_11_Immigrant_Monument.12983402.mp3)

Immigrant Monument Stop #11
To honor the immigrants from every nation who came after the Pilgrims.

Town Brook Stop #12

The Brook's excellent water induced the Pilgrims to settle here, and powered Plymouth industries in the 18th and 19th centuries. Follow the public walkways along the south side of the brook through Brewster gardens to Jenney Pond and beyond.

Pilgrim Maiden Statue Stop #13

Sculpted by Henry H. Kitson in 1924 and dedicated to "Those intrepid English women whose courage, fortitude, and devotion brought a new nation into being..."

[http://www.pilgrimpathtours.com/yahoo_site_admin/assets/audio/Pilgrim_Path_14 - Howland House.12983657.mp3](http://www.pilgrimpathtours.com/yahoo_site_admin/assets/audio/Pilgrim_Path_14_-_Howland_House.12983657.mp3)

Howland House 1667 Stop #14

The only surviving Plymouth house in which a Mayflower Pilgrim lived. It is furnished with objects from the 17th century and later.

Town Training Green Stop #15

The Training Green was held as common land from the times of the early colonists. Shortly after the 1869 Civil War monument was erected on the green, Nathaniel Morton and Frederick Law Olmstead Sr. landscaped the area as a park.

Harlow Old Fort House 1677 Stop #16

Costumed interpreters guide you through the homestead built by Sgt. William Harlow in 1677. Restored and furnished by the Plymouth Antiquarian Society in the 1920s.

1749 Courthouse Museum Stop #17

The oldest wooden courthouse in America, which has served as the County Court, Registry of Deeds, and Town House, is today a museum of early Plymouth.

Richard Sparrow House Stop #18

Plymouth's oldest restored house, now houses the best in American craft in the adjoining gallery.

Jenney Grist Mill Stop #19

The Jenney Grist Mill is a living history museum located on the site of the oldest mill in the country-built in 1636 by Pilgrim John Jenney.

The Namasket Trail Stop #20

The Namasket Trail is said to be the first native path used by Massasoit and his warriors. The trail stretched from Middleboro to Plymouth.

http://pilgrimpathtours.com/yahoo_site_admin/assets/audio/PilgrimPathaudiostop21BurialHill.129123048.mp3 Burial Hill Stop #21 **(public restrooms are available at this stop)**

Site of the Pilgrim's first fort and meeting house, with gravestones from the 17th-19th centuries. Magnificent view of Plymouth Harbor, beaches and surrounding countryside.

Town Square Stop #22

Town Square was the focal point for Plymouth's civic, religious and commercial affairs from 1620 until after World War II.

King Phillips War Plaque Stop #23

King Phillips War Plaque commemorates the war that lasted from 1675-1676. King Phillips head was impaled on a pike and was displayed at this very site for more than 20 years.

Spooner House Stop #24

Home to the Spooner Family for over 200 years, now owned by the Plymouth Antiquarian Society. Features authentic furnishings from the colonial era to the 20th century and an enclosed street garden.

Mayflower Society House Museum Stop #25

Features of this elegant Colonial Revival home include formal gardens, a "flying staircase" and nine rooms furnished with antiques owned by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

1820 Courthouse Stop #26

Considered an architectural gem in its day, it still remains one of the most impressive structures found in Downtown Plymouth.

Pilgrim Hall Museum Stop #27 (nice stop on a rainy or hot day – air conditioned)

The nation's oldest continually operating public museum. Collections include authentic Pilgrim possessions, portraits, paintings of Pilgrim scenes and more.

Forefathers Monument Stop #28

The largest free-standing granite statue in the world, the figure of Faith is 216 times life size. Built by the Pilgrim Society, the monument also has other figures representing the virtues of the Pilgrims. The design predates the Statue of Liberty.

Where to Dine:

Unfortunately, we did not have time to try all of these restaurants (suggested to us by the folks at the Visitor Center); so we went on line to let you see what others thought....

- East Bay Grille located on Plymouth's Town Wharf offers classic and contemporary New England style dining in an exceptional environment with water views. 173 Water Street in Plymouth 508.746.9751 eastbaygrille.com
- The Cabby Shack - <http://www.cabbys shack.com/> - 30 Town Wharf Rd, Plymouth 508.746.5354 "The clam chowdah was so thick and creamy and wonderful." "Food Network's 'The Best Thing I Ever Ate – Clam Chowdah'"
- Wood's Seafood – <http://www.woodsseafoods.com/> - 15 Town Wharf in Plymouth 508.746.0261 "The line moves pretty quickly... I had doubts about the quality because of the cafeteria style, however my fears were squashed after the tray was handed over to me. The smell alone was heavenly. The lobster roll was the perfect size..." Recipient of Yankee Magazine Editor's Choice !
- Lobster Hut - <http://lobsterhutplymouth.com/> - 25 Town Wharf, Plymouth 508.746.2270 "Have been going to the Lobster Hut for about 20 years. It is a 2 hour drive to get there and we are NEVER disappointed"
- Cupcake Charlie's - <http://www.cupcakecharlies.com/> - 6 Town Wharf, Plymouth 508.747.9225 Goodies for the ride home – 16 varieties of homemade gourmet cupcakes baked fresh daily. "I found the cupcakes to be delectable"

Where to Shop:

- Water Street, along the harbor, boasts an inexhaustible supply of souvenir shops. A less kitschy destination, just up the hill, is Route 3A, known as Court, Main, and Warren Street as it runs through town.
- Adjacent to the Mayflower II you will find Plimoth Plantation's Museum Shops, which offer items to educate and entertain, to adorn and delight. In the Craft Center and Children's Shop you'll find everything from 17th-century reproductions, to Pilgrim clothes, and traditional toys and games. In the Native Shop are featured the work of Wampanoag and other Eastern Woodlands artists and craftspeople. 100% of the net proceeds from each purchase help to maintain Plimoth Plantation's historic sites and educational mission.
- The Richard Sparrow House – 42 Summer Street, Plymouth 508.747.1240 Built in 1640 is Plymouth's oldest restored house. Discover the best in American craft in the adjoining gallery. A lovely selection of handcrafted jewelry, glass, paintings and works in wood by over 100 artists.

Where to Beach:

- Nelson Memorial Park – 235 Water Street, Plymouth 508.830.4162 x12116 a short distance north of Plymouth Center. No lifeguard, free parking, restrooms. Concession building, small boat ramp, bike path, picnic area, children's play area and a 5000 sq ft "Splash Pad"
- Plymouth Beach – located 2 ½ miles south of Plymouth Center (entrance is on left just after passing Plimoth Plantation) with restrooms and snack bar. Fee to park. This beach offers 3 miles of perfectly sandy beach.
- White Horse Beach – the South Beach section is public. Travel down Route 3A until you reach Rocky Hill Road. Take Rocky Hill Road until it ends, and then take a left. On the right you will find limited street parking, no lifeguard, no restrooms.

Where to Fish / Buy Fresh Seafood:

Options abound for chartered fishing boats at the Town Wharf. Most offer rod and reel rentals, and typically the bait is free. If you would like to do some fishing on your own, locals recommend trying the Breakwater Jetty – also at the Town Wharf. A license is required for anyone aged 15 and over and can be obtained at on line at ma.wildlifelicense.com

If you'd like to take some fresh seafood home to enjoy later (or ship to a friend), I would suggest Wood's Seafood which is on the Town Wharf. You can purchase anything from lobsters, to fresh seafood and even all the fixings for a clambake to enjoy once you return to the park. Wood's Seafood - 15 Town Wharf, Plymouth 508-746-0261 or woodsseafoods.com

Cranberry Growing & Harvesting:

A.D. Makepeace Company offers public, group and private cranberry bog tours throughout the year, during both the blossom season in the spring and the cranberry harvest season in the fall. Before or after your tour, visit Makepeace Farms in Tihonet Village for cranberry-themed gifts, delicious sandwiches and salads, treats from their bakery, gourmet foods and cooking tools, specialty teas and coffees, cookbooks, and surprises for all ages! Whether you're looking for a delicious and healthy lunch, creative baked goods, or a refreshing ice cream, they have got you covered at Makepeace Farms! The A.D. Makepeace Company is offering tours during the harvest season in which guests can dry harvest their own berries! You must register separately for these tours. For more information call 508-295-5437

Free Things to Do in Plymouth:

- Visit Plymouth Rock
- Visit the 1749 Courthouse located in the Town Square
- Walk along the Town Brook through Brewster Gardens to the Jenney Pond
- Walk the Breakwater Jetty and fish – license required
- Visit the petting zoo at the Plymouth County Farm at 74 Obery Street. Open daily 8am-2pm but please call ahead 508.830.6810
- Tour and tastings at the Mayflower Brewery at 12 Resnik Road 508.746.2674
- Watch the fishing and lobster boats bring in their catch at the Town Wharf
- Explore pilgrim genealogy at the Plymouth Public Library on South Street
- Tour Burial Hill founded in the 17th century, this is the final resting place of Governor William Bradford, John Howland, Mary Allerton, William Brewster and Squanto.